

REMARKS

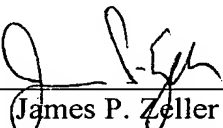
By the foregoing amendments the claims have been amended to better conform to U.S. practice and to omit multiple claims.

The filing fee has been calculated based on the claims as amended above. No new matter has been added.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The paragraph beginning at page 1 line 4 has been changed as follows:

The invention relates to parts to be connected by means of a screw connection, in particular parts of a medical treatment or working instrument [according to the preamble of claim 1 of 3 or 14].

Please delete the entire paragraph beginning at page 4 line 7.

The paragraph beginning at page 4 line 11 has been changed as follows:

With the solution in accordance with the invention [according to claim 1], the threaded bore has a transversely offset hole widening, which is so dimensioned in its cross-sectional size that the threaded pin - which is round or approximately round in cross-section - can be axially inserted therein with its full threading, in a correspondingly transversely offset position. Thereby the hole widening extends in the circumferential direction around about 180° so far that in the transitions, present transversely of the offset, between the hole widening and the remaining threading of the threaded bore, the threaded pin is moveable between its transversely offset insertion position and a position engaging into the remaining thread grooves of the threaded bore. By these means the threaded pin can be inserted offset sideways over the greater part of the length of the threaded bore into the remaining threading of the threaded bore without a screw movement having to be carried out in the region of this length. A screw movement needs to be carried out only upon screwing in of the threaded pin into the remaining longitudinal section of the threaded bore. Since this screwing-in movement can be shorter than the length of the threaded bore overall, by means of the

configuration in accordance with the invention there is provided a quick-fastening connection with which the parts can be screwed together with one another and again released with a substantially lesser outlay in terms of manipulation and time.

The paragraph beginning at page 5 line 2 has been changed as follows:

The same advantage can also be achieved with the configuration [according to claim 3], with which instead of a hole widening of the threaded bore there is provided a cross-sectional tapering on the threaded pin, which, running out at its free end, extends over a part of its length and is so dimensioned radially and in the circumferential direction that the threaded pin can be inserted into the core hole of the threaded bore over that part of its length and then is transversely moveable with its remaining thread grooves into the thread grooves of the threaded bore. With this configuration also, the threaded pin can be inserted over a great part of its length into the threaded bore, whereby a screw movement is to be carried out only in the region of the remaining length of the threaded pin.

The paragraph beginning at page 6 line 2 has been changed as follows:

With the configuration in accordance with the invention [according to independent claim 14] there is likewise attained a shortened screw length in that the threaded pin can be inserted over a part of its thread length into an insertion hole arranged before the threaded bore. By these means the threaded pin, or also a further cylindrical section of a part having the threaded pin, is so stabilized by means of the preferably provided locking reception or a screw stop in the insertion hole that a shorter engagement length of the threaded pin is sufficient to obtain a sufficiently stable screwing together. There is thus obtained also with this configuration a quick-fastening connection and reduced screwing and time outlay. In the case of the presence of a hole widening it is advantageous to form the stop surfaces - formed

by means of radial or cone-like shoulder surfaces - so large that on the one hand the hole widening opens at the end into the associated shoulder surface and on the other hand the shoulder surface on the opposing part covers over the hole widening in the stop position and thus closes it to the entry of contaminants. By these means, hygiene is improved and the cleaning or disinfection or sterilisation is simplified.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

The abstract has been changed as follows:

The invention relates to parts [(17a, 17b)] to be connected with one another by means of a screw connection [(17)], of which one has a threaded bore [(18)] and the other has a threaded pin [(19)], the threaded bore [(18)] having, on a part [(L2)] of its length [(L1)] running out towards the entry, a transversely offset hole widening [(20)] into which the threaded pin [(19)] can be axially inserted, the threaded pin [(19)] being transversely moveable between this transversely offset insertion position and a position which is coaxial with regard to the threaded bore [(18)] and engaging into the remaining thread grooves of the threaded bore [(18)], the parts [(17a, 17b)] being screwable against a stop [(22)] effective between them. In order to be able to bring the parts [(17a, 17b)] into threaded engagement with slight effort, the threaded pin [(19)] has a full thread.

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Amended) Parts [(17a, 17b)] to be connected with one another by means of a screw connection [(17)], of which one has a threaded bore [(18)] and the other has a threaded pin [(19)], the threaded bore [(18)] having, on a part [(L2)] of its length [(L1)] running out towards the entry, a transversely offset hole widening [(20)] into which the threaded pin [(19)] can be axially inserted, the threaded pin [(19)] being transversely

moveable between this transversely offset insertion position and a position which is coaxial with regard to the threaded bore [(18)] and engaging into the remaining thread grooves of the threaded bore [(18)], the parts [(17a, 17b)] being screwable against a stop [(22)] effective between them, and the hole widening [(22)] being laterally covered over by a wall section [(25a)] of the one part [(17a). characterised in that,] wherein the stop [(22)] is formed by means of the end of the one part [(17a)] having the threaded bore [(18)] and an annular shoulder [(23)], facing the one part, in the foot region of the threaded pin [(19)].

2. (Amended) Parts to be connected with one another by means of a screw connection according to claim 1, [characterised in that,] wherein the threaded pin [(19)] has a full thread.

3. (Amended) Parts to be connected with one another by means of a screw connection according to claim 1 [or 2, characterised in that], wherein in the stop position of the parts [(17a, 17b)] the annular shoulder [(23)] covers over the end opening of the hole widening [(20)].

4. (Amended) Parts to be connected with one another by means of a screw connection according to [any preceding] claim 1, [characterised in that,] wherein the hole widening [(20)] has a circular cross-sectional surface.

5. (Amended) Parts to be connected with one another by means of a screw connection according to [any preceding] claim 1, [characterised in that,] wherein the transversely directed offset [(v)] of the hole widening [(20)] corresponds to or is greater than the depth [(t)] of the thread grooves.

6. (Amended) Parts to be connected with one another by means of a screw connection according to [any preceding] claim 1, [characterised in that,] wherein there is present at the transition between the hole widening [(20)] and the remaining section [(L5)] of the threaded bore [(18)] and/or at the free end of the threaded pin [(19)], in each case a surface [(29, 31)] converging in the screw-in direction, in particular a cone-shaped surface.

7. (Amended) Parts to be connected with one another by means of a screw connection according to [any preceding] claim 1, [characterised in that,] wherein the length [(L4)] of the threaded pin [(19)] is greater than the length [(L2)] of the hole widening [(20)], in particular is greater by the axial dimension of one or more thread grooves.

8. (Amended) Parts [(17a, 17b)] to be connected with one another by means of a screw connection [(17)], of which one has a threaded bore [(18)] and the other has a threaded pin [(19)],

the threaded pin [(19)] having on a part [(L6)] of its length [(L4)] running out at its free end a lateral tapering [(33)],

and the parts [(17a, 17b)] being screwable against a stop [(22)] effective between them, [characterised in that,] wherein the tapering [(33)] is so dimensioned radially and in the circumferential direction that the threaded pin [(19)] can be inserted over the part [(L6)] of its length [(L4)] into the core hole [(D3)] of the threaded bore [(18)], and is then

moveable with its remaining thread grooves transversely into the thread grooves of the threaded bore [(18)].

9. (Amended) Parts [(17a, 17b)] to be connected with one another by means of a screw connection according to claim 8, [characterised in that,] wherein the threaded pin [(19)] has a full thread in its, with reference to the tapering [(33)], remaining region.

10. (Amended) Parts to be connected with one another by means of a screw connection according to claim 8 [or 9], [characterised in that,] wherein the radial dimension [(t1)] of the tapering [(33)] corresponds to or is greater than the depth [(t)] of the thread grooves.

11. (Amended) Parts to be connected with one another by means of a screw connection according to [any of claims] claim 8 [to 10, characterised in that], wherein at the free edge of the threaded bore [(18)] and/or at the transition between the tapering [(33)] and the remaining section [(L7)] of the threaded pin [(19)] there is provided a surface [(24, 34)] converging in the screw-in direction, in particular a cone-shaped surface.

12. (Amended) Parts to be connected with one another by means of a screw connection according to [any of claims] claim 8 [to 11, characterised in that], wherein the length [(L4)] of the threaded pin [(19)] is greater than the length [(L6)] of the tapering [(33)], in particular is greater by the axial dimension of one or more thread grooves.

13. (Amended) Parts to be connected with one another by means of a screw connection according to [any of claims] claim 8 [to 12, characterised in that], wherein the radial dimension [(t1)] of the tapering [(33)] corresponds to or is greater than the depth [(t)] of the thread grooves.

14. (Amended) Parts to be connected with one another by means of a screw connection according to [any preceding] claim 1, [characterised in that,] wherein there is associated with the screw connection [(17)] a stop [(22)] in the base region of the threaded bore [(18)] or in the foot region of the threaded pin [(19)].

15. (Amended) Parts to be connected with one another by means of a screw connection according to claim 14, [characterised in that,] wherein the stop [(22)] is formed by means of radial stop surfaces [(23a, 23b)] or by cone section surfaces [(29, 31)] convergent in the screw-in direction, on the parts [(17a, 17b)].

16. (Amended) Parts to be connected with one another by means of a screw connection according to [any preceding] claim 1, [characterised in that,] wherein the parts [(17a, 17b)] are parts of a medical, in particular dental-medical, instrument [(1)].

17. (Amended) Parts to be connected with one another by means of a screw connection according to claim 16, [characterised in that,] wherein the one part [(17b)] is a tool and the other part is a tool holder, in particular a handpiece [(2)], preferably an oscillation shaft [(3)] of a handpiece [(2)].

Please add new claim 18 as follows.

18. Parts to be connected with one another by means of a screw connection of which one has a threaded bore and the other has a threaded pin, wherein the threaded bore is widened in its entry region by means of an insertion hole into which the threaded pin can be inserted, there is associated with the screw connection a stop in the foot region of the threaded pin and the stop is formed by cone section surfaces convergent in the screw-in direction, on the forwarded end of the threaded pin and at the edge of the threaded bore.